

Docket No. AP01-008

Application No. 10/016,898

Amendment Dated Aug. 4, 2003; Reply to Office action of Jun. 19, 2003

Amendments to the Claims:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims:

- 5 1. (currently amended) A two transistor flash memory cell, comprising:
- a) a [[floating gate]] storage device with a floating gate and a shallow N+ source region,
 - b) an access device with a shallow N+ drain region,
 - c) said storage device and said access device share a shallow N+ common
 - 10 region that is a drain for the storage device and a source for the access device,
 - d) said source, drain and common regions created with a same implant profile, concentration and junction depth and producing a symmetrical memory cell in which siz of the memory cell is limited by characteristics of a read operation[[.]],
 - e) said symmetrical storage cell programmed using a channel program operation,
 - 15 whereby electrons are attracted to said floating gate,
 - f) said symmetrical storage cell erased using a channel erase operation, whereby electrons are expelled from said floating gate.
2. (previously presented) The memory cell of claim 1, wherein the storage device
- 20 and the access device are NMOS devices.

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3. (previously presented) The memory cell of claim 1, wherein the floating gate storage device is coupled in series with the access device to form a cell to create a compact flash array for programmable logic devices.

5 4. (currently amended) The memory cell of claim 1, wherein [[a]] said channel erase operation [[using]] uses Fowler-Nordheim (FN) tunneling [[is used]] to erase said floating gate storage device by removing electrons from said floating gate and [[a]] said channel program operation [[using]] uses FN tunneling [[is used]] to program said floating gate storage device by adding electrons to said floating gate.

10 5. (previously presented) The memory cell of claim 4, wherein the channel erase operation decreases a threshold voltage of said floating gate storage device and the channel program operation increases the threshold voltage of said floating gate storage device.

15 6. (previously presented) The memory cell of claim 4, wherein a low voltage gradient is produced from source to drain of the storage device during the channel program operation which allows a shorter channel length for high density applications.

20 7. (previously presented) The memory cell of claim 1, wherein said source region, said drain region and said common region are located in a P-well, within a deep N-well on a P-substrate.

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8. (previously presented) The memory cell of claim 1, wherein said source region, said drain region, and said common region are located on a P-substrate.

9. (previously presented) The memory cell of claim 1, wherein a tunnel oxide of said storage device and a gate oxide of said access device are created within a same process step.

10. (previously presented) The memory cell of claim 1, wherein a floating gate of said storage device and a gate of said access device are formed within a same process step.

11. (currently amended) A flash memory array for use in high density and low voltage applications, comprising:

a) an array of two transistor flash memory cells, comprising a storage transistor containing a floating gate and an access transistor arranged in rows and columns ~~and formed with cells containing a floating gate storage device and an access device,~~ wherein drains and sources of said storage transistor and said access transistor have a same implant profile, concentration and junction depth.

b) said cells in a column are coupled by bit lines and source lines,

c) said bit lines are decoded by a bit line decoder and said source lines are decoded by a source decoder,

d) said cells in a row are coupled by word lines and access lines,

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e) said word lines are couple to control gates of said storage devices and are controlled by a word line decoder,

f) said access lines are coupled to gates of said access devices and are controlled by an access decoder[.].

5 g) said storage transistor programmed using a channel program operation, whereby electrons are attracted to said floating gate and holes are expelled to a P-well.

h) said storage transistor erased using a channel erase operation, whereby electrons are expelled from said floating gate.

10 12. (previously presented) The flash memory array of claim 11, wherein the two transistor memory cells are arranged such that channels of said storage transistor and said access transistor are oriented vertically.

 13. (previously presented) The flash memory array of claim 11, wherein said bit
15 lines are segmented metal lines that couple drains of said access transistors in said column of memory cells, and said source lines are segmented metal lines that couple sources of said storage transistors in said column of memory cells.

 14. (currently amended) The flash memory array of claim 11, wherein [[an]] said
20 erase operation erases a block of memory cells simultaneous using a Fowler-Nordheim [[channel erase]] tunneling operation to remove electrons [[to]] from [[a]] said floating gate of said memory cells and thereby decreasing a threshold voltage of said block of memory cells.

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15. (currently amended) The flash memory array of claim 11, wherein [[a]] said
program operation programs memory cells using a Fowler-Nordheim [[channel
program]] tunneling operation to add electrons to [[a]] said floating gate of said memory
5 cells and thereby increasing a threshold voltage of said block of memory cells.

16. (previously presented) The flash memory array of claim 11, wherein erase
and program operations are performed without any verification.

10 17. (previously presented) The flash memory array of claim 11, wherein memory
cells that are not selected for a memory operation are biased to eliminate disturb
conditions.

18. (currently amended) A low voltage high density nonvolatile memory cell,
15 comprising:

a) a nonvolatile storage means, and an access means.

b) [[an access means]] said nonvolatile storage means and said access means
made with devices in which sources and drains have a same implant profile,
concentration and junction depth,

20 c) said storage means coupled to said access means,

d) said access means providing access to data stored in said storage [[menas.]]
means.

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e) said storage means using a channel program to attract electrons to a floating gate of said storage means and a channel erase to expel electrons from said floating gate.

5 19. (previously presented) The nonvolatile memory cell of claim 18, wherein the nonvolatile storage means and the access means are couple in series and share an N⁺ region located in a P-well within a deep N-well on a P-substrate.

10 20. (previously presented) The nonvolatile memory cell of claim 18, wherein access means provides access to said nonvolatile storage means.

15 21. (currently amended) The nonvolatile memory cell of claim 18, where said storage means is programmed using Fowler-Nordheim channel tunneling [[means]] and is erased using Fowler-Nordheim channel tunneling [[means]].

 22. (previously presented) The nonvolatile memory cell of claim 18, wherein the storage means and the access means are produced using a same process.

 23. (currently amended) A nonvolatile memory array, comprising:

20 a) a memory cell means comprising a nonvolatile storage means and an access means[[.]], wherein drains and sources of said nonvolatile storage means and said access means have a same implant profile, concentration and junction depth,

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b) a memory array means configured with rows and columns of said memory cell means,

c) a column of cells of said memory array means coupled to access means of said column of cells by a bit line means and coupled to nonvolatile storage means of
5 said column of cells by a source line means,

d) a row of cells of said memory array means coupled to access means of said row of cells by an access line means and coupled to nonvolatile storage means of said row of cells by a word line means[[]].

e) said memory array means erased by expelling electrons from a floating gate of
10 said nonvolatile storage means.

f) said memory means programmed by attracting electrons to said floating gate and thereby raising a threshold voltage of said nonvolatile storage means.

24. (currently amended) The nonvolatile memory of claim 23, wherein said
15 nonvolatile storage means and said access means are coupled by an N+ implantation means located in a P-well with a deep N-well on a P-substrate.

25. (currently amended) The nonvolatile memory of claim 23, wherein said nonvolatile storage means and said access means are coupled by an N+ implantation
20 means located on P-substrate.

26. (previously presented) The nonvolatile memory of claim 23, wherein said bit line means is formed by segmented means of metal lines.

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27. (previously presented) The nonvolatile memory of claim 23, wherein said source line means is formed by segmented means of metal lines,

5 28. (previously presented) The nonvolatile memory of claim 23, wherein said bit line means is controlled by a bit line decoder means.

29. (previously presented) The nonvolatile memory of claim 23, wherein said source line means is controlled by a source line decoder means.

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30. (previously presented) The nonvolatile memory of claim 23, wherein said access line means is controlled by an access line decoder means.

31. (previously presented) The nonvolatile memory of claim 23, wherein said
15 word line means is controlled by a word line decoder means.

32 (previously presented) The nonvolatile memory of claim 23, wherein said cells are programmed using Fowler-Nordheim channel tunneling means, and said cells are erased using Fowler-Nordheim channel tunneling means.

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33. (currently amended) A method for creating a nonvolatile memory for a low voltage and high performance applications, comprising:

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a) forming an array of nonvolatile memory cells, wherein each cell comprises a nonvolatile storage device and an access device, wherein drains and sources of the nonvolatile storage device and the access device are made to be the same implant profile and impurity concentration with the same junction depth.

5 b) coupling said memory cells in a column of said array to bit lines and to source lines,

c) coupling said memory cells in a row of said array to word lines and access lines,

d) selecting said memory cells with said bit lines and said source lines,

10 e) accessing said memory cells with said word lines and said access lines[.],

f) programming said memory cells by attracting electrons from a channel to a floating gate of said nonvolatile storage device.

g) erasing said memory cells by expelling electrons from said floating gate to said channel.

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34. (previously presented) The method of claim 33, wherein said memory device and said access device are coupled by an implanted N+ region in a P-well within an N-well on a P-substrate.

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35. (previously presented) The method of claim 33, wherein said memory device and said access device are coupled by an implanted N+ region on a P-substrate.

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36. (previously presented) The method of claim 33, wherein said cells in a column are coupled to said bit line through a drain of said access devices of each cell in the column.

5 37. (previously presented) The method of claim 33, wherein said cells in a column are coupled to said source line through a source of said storage device of each cell in the column.

10 38. (previously presented) The method of claim 33, wherein said cells in a row are coupled to said access line through a gate of said access device of each cell the row.

15 39. (previously presented) The method of claim 33, wherein said cells in a row are coupled to said word line through a control gate of said access device of each cell in the row.